COURT NEWS JULY-AUGUST 2003

Education & Development

Child Support Training Conference

The seventh annual AB 1058-Child Support Training Conference brings together child support commissioners, family law facilitators, and administrative, accounting, and court clerical staff to update them on the latest developments in the area of child support. The conference will take place September 24–26 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in San Diego.

Conference participants will learn about recent developments at the Department of Child Support Services, new child support rules, and forms. They will hear updates on budget, accounting, and administrative issues. Workshops include

"Court Clerk Training," "Legislative Update," "Accounting and Administration," and "Data Collection."

The deadline to register for the conference is August 23.

For more information, visit www.courtinfo.ca.gov /programs/cfcc/resources /calendar/conferences /1058training.htm or contact Carolynn Castaneda, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, 415-865-7675; e-mail: carolynn.castaneda@jud.ca.gov. ■



Revised Handbook for Assigned Judges

Effective July 1, Chief Justice Ronald M. George issued the revised *Handbook for the Assigned Judges Program*, containing standards, guidelines, and procedures for judicial assignments in the program.

The state Constitution gives the Chief Justice the power to assign judges to "expedite judicial business and to equalize the work of judges." In fiscal year 2001–2002, retired judges serving in the Assigned Judges Program provided 33,237 days of assistance to the courts—the equivalent of approximately 133 judicial positions.

The manual offers guidance to interested judges on the steps

they need to take to be considered for an assignment and their obligations once they have been selected. It also details the policies considered in implementing the Assigned Judges Program and provides information about the role of court staffs and their assistance to judges participating in the program.

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Major revisions in this edition include:

- ☐ Requiring judges in the program to annually certify that they will not participate in any privately compensated dispute resolution;
- ☐ Requiring judges to attend, every other year, an educational institute in their major substantive area of law, equaling the training required of active judges; and
- ☐ Mandating that assigned judges fulfill the Judges' Oath of Office requirements.
- For more information or copies of the *Handbook for the Assigned Judges Program*, contact Brad Campbell, Assigned Judges Program, 415-865-7638; brad.campbell@jud.ca.gov.

Online Children's Book in Spanish

What's Happening in Court: An Activity Book for Children Going to Court in California is now available in Spanish on the California Courts Web site.

Whether children are witnesses, visitors, or involved in a case, the activity book introduces them to court processes, to the people who work in the judicial system, and to the vocabulary associated with judicial proceedings. The book teaches children about legal proceedings in areas such as dependency, delinquency, mental health, family, guardianship, adoption, and emancipation.

The electronic version of the activity book includes several enhancements. It contains many games that have been made interactive or are available to print and play. The site has been set up to give children an incentive to play all of the games. A clue is furnished after each game. When they finish the book, players can plug the clues into a phrase and receive a "diploma" from the site. In addition, children can color most of the illustrations themselves with crayons or pens after printing them off the computer.

To view the activity book online in English or Spanish, visit www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/children.htm. To order print copies of the English or Spanish version, contact the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, 415-865-7739.



he California court system's public Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/ and Serranus, the courts' password-protected Web site, at http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/ continually add information and features to keep the public and the courts up to date on judicial programs and resources. Following are recent additions.

Online: New Forms and Rules Effective July 1

All current Judicial Council forms are available for downloading. Most are available in fillable format (for on-screen completion), and many are also translated into other languages (although the translated forms are nonfillable). Newly amended California Rules of Court and links to all current local rules are available. www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/localrules.htm

Violence Against Women Fact Sheet

The newest Judicial Council fact sheet describes the Violence Against Women Education Project (VAWEP), an initiative to provide the courts with information, educational materials, and training on their role in responding to these cases.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/VAWEP.pdf

Updated Judicial Council Profile

The updated second edition of this informative 44-page booklet summarizes the history, role, structure, and membership of the council. www.courtinfo.ca.gov /courtadmin/jc/documents/profilejc.pdf

Three-Strikes Sentencing Guide Revised

The latest edition of *California Three Strikes Sentencing*, a guide to the application of Penal Code sections 667(b)–(j) and 1170.12, examines the appellate decisions that have attempted to interpret the three-strikes law. http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/3strikes.pdf

Guide for Court-Related Legislation

The first annual *Implementation Guide for 2002 Trial Court-Related Legislation* provides summaries of legislation enacted in 2002 that require the attention of, or action in, the trial courts. http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/ig2002.pdf

New on JBRadio

Selected video presentations from the Center for Judicial Education and Research's (CJER) 2003 Civil Law Institute are available on JBRadio, a distance education project that brings programs to your desktop at home or at work. The available videos cover common errors on appeal, evidence, and settlement techniques. http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/education/jbradio/civil.htm

Web Sites Increase Viewership

Serranus in June more than tripled its page views and hits compared to June of last year. Visits to the California Courts public Web site in April topped the half-million mark for the first time, a 12 percent increase over April of last year.

● Not a Serranus user? For access, e-mail serranus@jud.ca.gov

JULY-AUGUST 2003

New Court Statistics Released

The 2003 Court Statistics Report, a companion volume to the Judicial Council's 2003 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature, was posted to the California Courts Web site in June. Using data from the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS), the report provides detailed workload information for the state and for each of the 58 counties.

JBSIS was developed to improve the timeliness and accuracy of the statistical data used by courts and other branches of government to form state and local policy. It is the primary source of caseload and workload data throughout the judicial branch. The JBSIS Web site (http://jbsis.courts.ca.gov) gives courts immediate access to current and historical statistics. It is a secure site that is available only to courts and others who are authorized to gain access to it with a password.

The 2003 Court Statistics Report is available on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/3_stats.htm. A print edition, containing only statewide data, can be obtained by calling the California Courts Infoline at 800-900-5980.

Court Management Information at Your Fingertips

The second edition of the Court Administration Reference Manual (CARM) was posted to Serranus in May, giving court leaders easy access to comprehensive information on trial court management.

CARM provides presiding judges and court executive officers with centralized access to a multitude of court management authorities and resources, including the California Rules of Court and Standards of Judicial Administration. It contains sections on court governance, educational requirements, calendar management, alternative dispute resolution, financial management, human resources, facilities and security, technology, liability, and duties and responsibilities of presiding judges and court executive officers.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) developed CARM for court leaders, who wanted court management information compiled in one reference tool. The AOC developed and released the first edition, available only in print form, in August 2001.

The AOC encourages feedback on CARM to ensure that it remains a viable tool. Included in the CARM materials is an electronic form that users can use to submit comments and suggestions for additional resources or ways to make the information more user-friendly. The AOC will consider this feedback and anticipates releasing a third edition in 2004.

● To view CARM, visit http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/carm/. For more information, contact Penelope Davis, AOC Senior Court Services Analyst, 415-865-7612; e-mail: penny.davis@jud.ca.gov.

Getting in Touch

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides easy access to its staff through the AOC Phone List and AOC Subject Matter Referral List. The phone list contains contact numbers for all AOC employees, listed both alphabetically and by division and unit. The referral list provides contacts for information on specific topics, such as accounting, juvenile courts, and new judge education.

The AOC Phone List and AOC Subject Matter Referral List can be viewed at http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/documents/smr_list.pdf

Court Briefs

Alameda County Streamlines Case Filing

The Superior Court of Alameda County on July 1 started two new services to make it easier for individuals to file documents with the court.

First, a service that the court dubbed "universal filing" enables attorneys and the public to file documents at any one of the seven court locations in Alameda County, regardless of where the case will be heard by a judge.

Second, the court began accepting civil, probate, and family law filings via facsimile. Faxed documents can be received directly by the court's computer, processed, and entered into the court's case management system. Once in the system, documents are available online through the court's Web site. If the case information is confidential, conformed copies are faxed or e-mailed to the filing parties. The required filing fees and the fax filing surcharge of \$1 per page may be paid by credit card.

The court anticipates that the new services will help ease the burden on litigants caused by the recent reduction in court business hours, a result of the state budget crisis.

• For more information, contact Arthur Sims, Executive Officer, Superior Court of Alameda County, 510-272-6076.

L.A. Jurors Hear Justice Talking

A program that debuted on the first day of Juror Appreciation Week has made prospective jurors in the Central District of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County the first in the country to have the opportunity to listen to recordings from the awardwinning series Justice Talking. The jurors listen through headphones similar to those used for self-guided museum tours.

Justice Talking is a weekly radio program featuring renowned National Public Radio (NPR) reporter Margot Adler. It examines the cases and controversies that come before the nation's courts. Each broad-

cast is a fast-paced hour of timely debates about current legal battles, peppered with questions from a live studio audience.

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County—with help from the American Judicature Society, the National Center for State Courts, and the American Bar Association—partnered with the producer of *Justice Talking*, the Annenberg Public Policy Center in Philadelphia, to bring the program to its prospective jurors.

The project, which is funded by the Annenberg Foundation, is a pilot for spreading the service to courts nationwide.

• For more information, contact the Superior Court of Los Angeles County's Public Information Office, 213-974-5227.

San Joaquin Debuts Community Report

The Superior Court of San Joaquin County in June debuted its new quarterly report, *Focused on the Community*. With this report, the court aims to educate the community about court services and the legal system.

Focused on the Community will provide information about the work of the court, including outreach activities, new programs, accomplishments, and new judicial appointments. It will be distributed primarily via e-mail and posted to the court's Web site at www.stocktoncourt.org/courts/.

The initial issue features news of the court's legal academy for journalists, its small claims e-filing program, and its youth academy, in which high school students earn junior college credits through a five-week course on the justice system.

● For more information, contact Leanne Kozak, Public Information Officer, Superior Court of San Joaquin County, 209-468-8120; e-mail: lkozak @courts.san-joaquin.ca.us. ■

Scout Assists Adoption Court



Children leaving adoption court in Ventura County with their new families will take books and teddy bears with them, thanks to the efforts of a local Girl Scout.

Earning the Girl Scouts' Gold Award, the highest award given by the organization, Jessica Ryan spent more than 66 hours collecting books and sorting them into age-appropriate categories. Donations were collected through her service unit during Girl Scouts Week and from local bookstores. In addition, Jessica's neighbor, who owns a local Hallmark store, became aware of Jessica's project and donated 300 teddy bears to the court.

In April, Jessica and her family delivered more than 700 books to the courthouse. Judge Charles W. Campbell, Jr., who was on hand when the books were delivered, thanked Jessica and presented her with a certificate of appreciation. Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Ventura County

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Milestones

The Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association (ABA) recognized the **Center for Families, Children & the Courts** with its 2003 Hodson Award for Public Service. The ABA cited the center's work as "inspirational."

CFCC is dedicated to improving the quality of justice and services to children, youth, families, and self-represented litigants in the California courts. Through a multidisciplinary approach, CFCC seeks to (1) ensure that the well-being of children, youth, families, and self-represented litigants is a high priority in the California judicial system; (2) encourage positive changes at both the trial and appellate court levels; and (3) provide leadership, outreach, and collaboration to ensure that court and community resources are available.

The award will be presented to CFCC at the ABA's annual meeting in August.

The **Superior Court of Santa Clara County** was rated #1 in the Justice Served[™]
Top-10 Court Website Awards for 2003. The court took the top prize from a field of 900 court-related Web sites.

The court's Web site (www .sccsuperiorcourt.org) was recognized for its electronic access features, including jury service status, online traffic school, self-service assistance for self-represented litigants, an Intranet for complex civil cases, and a collaborative effort with the Superior Court of San Mateo County for small claims forms assistance.

Judging criteria and a complete listing of all 10 award winners can be found at the Justice Served Web site located at www.justiceserved.com/top10sites.cfm.

The Juvenile Delinquency Domestic Violence Court in Santa Clara County was distinguished as one of the top 100 programs in the 16th annual Innovations in American Government Awards competition. Award winners are selected by the Kennedy School of Government, the Ford Foun-

dation, and the Council for Excellence in Government.

The Superior Court of Santa Clara County's specialty court has a dedicated court docket and probation caseload and provides services for offenders and victims. Over a two-year period, recidivism rates were significantly lower for offenders who completed the court-based program.

Governor Gray Davis has appointed **Jose Miramontes** to the Commission on Judicial Performance.

Mr. Miramontes, a San Bernardino resident and Divisional Security Chief for the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Southern California, helped to start the East Los Angeles Chapter of the National Latino Peace Officers Association and became its first chapter president. In 1994 he was elected the association's state president. In 2000, he was elected national president of the National Latino Peace Officers Association and is currently in his second year of a two-year term.

Superior Court of Santa Clara County **Judge Leonard P. Edwards** recently received awards from two prestigious national organizations.

The first award is from the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), an international organization dedicated to improving practice in family courts. The award recognizes Judge Edwards's accomplishments throughout his career as a judge.

The second honor is the Roscoe Pound Award awarded by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), an organization committed to improving practice in the justice system. The award is presented to a person in the public or private sector who has shown outstanding leadership and significant commitment to promoting criminal justice reforms consistent with NCCD's values.

Judge Edwards is a former member of the Judicial Council and is the current president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.■

CORRECTIONS

An item in the "In the News" column in the May–June 2003 issue incorrectly identified an appellate court outreach program as that of the Fourth Appellate District. The visit to Ponderosa High School to answer students' questions and hear oral arguments was made by the Third Appellate District.

The Judicial Appointments section of the May–June issue reported that Larry Gobelman had been appointed as executive officer of the Superior Court of Lake County, succeeding William Jaynes. Mr. Gobelman was appointed as executive officer of the Superior Court of Siskiyou County and William Jaynes remains executive officer in Lake County.

News From the AOC

The Administrative Office of the Courts publishes several newsletters about aspects of court business. Visit these online on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov or on Serranus, the password-protected site of the state judicial branch, at http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov. To subscribe to any of the newsletters, contact pubinfo@jud.ca.gov.

Capitol Connection

Monthly update on legislative issues affecting the judicial branch and information regarding the legislative process. Distributed monthly via e-mail. See www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/capconn.htm.

CFCC Update

Reports on developments in family and juvenile law, including innovative programs; case law summaries; grants and resources; and updates on legislation, rules, and forms. Published three times a year. See www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/resources/publications/newsletter.htm.

Court News

Award-winning bimonthly newsmagazine for court leaders, reporting on developments in court administration statewide. Indexed from 2000 at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtnews.

HR Connect

Monthly update on human resources issues and programs in the state judicial branch. See http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/hr/hr_connect.htm.

Spread the News

Tell Court News about innovative programs and services at your court so that we can share your experience with your colleagues.

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Send the information via mail to:

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Judicial Appointments

EXECUTIVE OFFICER APPOINTMENT

Inga McElyea, Superior Court of Riverside County, succeeding José Octavio Guillén. ■

AOC-TV GUIDE

AUG 5, Orientation to the Judicial Branch, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

AUG 12, California Courts News (CCN), 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.; 12:15 and 12:45 p.m.

AUG 19, Accessibility for Persons With Disabilities: A Court User's Perspective, Supervisors' Edition, 9:00–10:30 a.m. and 3:00–4:30 p.m.

AUG 26, Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention, Staff Edition, 9:00–10:00 a.m. and 3:00–4:00 p.m.

SEP 2, Orientation to the Judicial Branch, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

SEP 9, California Courts News (CCN), 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.; 12:15 and 12:45 p.m.

SEP 10, Great Minds: Effective Communication, 12:15–1:15 p.m.

SEP 16, Integrated Disability Management, Part I, Supervisors' Edition, 9:00–10:30 a.m. and 3:00–4:30 p.m.

SEP 23, Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention, Staff Edition, 9:00–10:00 a.m. and 3:00–4:00 p.m.

SEP 30, Continuing the Dialogue, 9:00–10:30 a.m.

OCT 7, Orientation to the Judicial Branch, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

OCT 14, California Courts News (CCN), 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.; 12:15 and 12:45 p.m.

OCT 21, Integrated Disability Management, Part II, Supervisors' Edition, 9:00–10:30 a.m. and 3:00–4:30 p.m.

OCT 28, Civil Jury Instructions, 9:00–10:30 a.m. and 3:00–4:30 p.m.

(Broadcast times are subject to change.)

 Viewing locations for each court are listed at http://serranus.courtinfo .ca.gov/programs/aoctv/locations. htm. For more information, contact Jay Harrell, 415-865-7753; e-mail: jay.harrell@jud.ca.gov.



JULY-AUGUST 2003 COURT NEWS



Calendar

CONFERENCES		
AUG 7–12	American Bar Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco	
AUG 16	California Court Association Central Training Day, Bakersfield	
AUG 19–23	National Association of State Judicial Educators Annual Conference, Reno	
SEP 4–6	State Bar Annual Meeting, Anaheim	
SEP 14–19	American Judges Association Annual Education Conference, Montreal, Canada	
OCT 3–5	California Judges Association Rural Judges Forum, Quincy	
OCT 11–13	Superior Court Clerks' Association Annual Conference, Fort Bragg	
OCT 28–30	National Center for State Courts Court Technology Conference, Kansas City, MO	
OCT 31–NOV 2	California Judges Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco	

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Judicial Council business meetings will be held at the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco unless otherwise noted.

AUG 29

• Contact: Secretariat, 415-865-7640; e-mail: jcservices@jud.ca.gov. Judicial Council meeting information is also posted on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/.

FORUMS/WORKSHOPS

SEP 9	Labor & Employee Relations Regional Forum, Northern/Central Region Conference Call
SEP 18	Labor & Employee Relations Regional Forum, Southern Region Conference Call
SEP 23	Labor & Employee Relations Regional Forum, Bay Area/Northern Coastal Region Conference Call
OCT 30	Complex Civil Litigation Workshop, Los Angeles

EDUCATION/TRAINING		
Programs		
AUG 3–8	Continuing Judicial Studies Program, San Diego	
OCT 15-17	Appellate Justices Institute, San Francisco	
OCT 20–22	Presiding Judges Orientation and Court Management Program, San Francisco	
OCT 28-29	Assigned Judges Ethics Conference, Santa Ana	
Court Management		
AUG 6	Managing @ Court: Critical Thinking, Burbank	
AUG 6-7	Management Foundations, Burbank	

Managing @ Court: Having Difficult **AUG 13** Conversations, Burbank **AUG 15** Leadership Expedition, Session III: Models of

Leadership, Sacramento

AUG 20	Managing @ Court: Coaching Skills, San Francisco
AUG 22	Management University: Ethics for Managers, Sacramento
AUG 27	Managing @ Court: Coaching Skills, Burbank
AUG 28	Leadership Expedition, Session IV: Character of Leadership, Online
SEP 3	Managing @ Court: Creating a Motivational Environment, San Francisco
SEP 10	Managing @ Court: Creating a Motivational Environment, Burbank
SEP 17	Managing @ Court: Conflict Management, San Francisco
SEP 18	Leadership Expedition, Session V: Leadership in Practice, Sacramento
SEP 24	Managing @ Court: Conflict Management, Burbank
SEP 25	Management University: Finance Skills for Non-Financial Professionals, Sacramento
SEP 30	Leadership Expedition, Session VI: Best Practices in the Courts, Online
OCT 1	Managing @ Court: Building Your Court Team, San Francisco
OCT 2	Management University: Resource Allocation, San Francisco
OCT 8	Managing @ Court: Building Your Court Team, Burbank
OCT 9	Leadership Expedition, Session VII: Putting It All Together, Sacramento
OCT 15	Managing @ Court: Interviewing Skills, San Francisco
OCT 22	Managing @ Court: Interviewing Skills, Burbank
OCT 23-24	Management Foundations, San Francisco
OCT 29	Managing @ Court: Presentation Skills, San Francisco
OCT 30	Managing @ Court: Critical Thinking,

Sacramento **Family Law** AB 1058-Child Support Training Conference, SEP 24-26 San Diego Family Dispute Resolution Regional Training, **SEP 25** Burbank Family Dispute Resolution Regional Training, SEP 26 Fresno **SEP 30** Family Dispute Resolution Regional Training, Riverside OCT 2 Family Dispute Resolution Regional Training, Sacramento OCT 7 Family Dispute Resolution Regional Training,

Orientation

SEP 8-12 New Judge Orientation, San Francisco **SEP 29-OCT 3** New Judge Orientation, San Francisco

San Francisco

Computer Classes

OCT 23-24 Computer Class for Judges, Los Angeles Note: Computer class students must have a Serranus user name and password to participate.

COURT NEWS

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